

Docket No. 1232-4672

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): ARAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3623

Serial No.: 09/753,728

Examiner: S.M. MEINECKE DIAZ

Filed: January 3, 2001

For: WORK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD, DISTRIBUTED
CLIENT/SERVER SYSTEM, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.8(A))

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached:

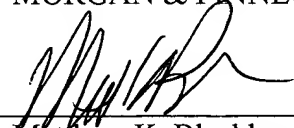
1. Response to Restriction Requirement;
2. Return Postcard

along with any paper(s) referred to as being attached or enclosed and this Certificate of Mailing are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: December 21, 2004

By: _____


Matthew K. Blackburn
Registration No. 47,428

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Jh

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. : 09/753,728 Confirmation : 3779
Applicant(s) : ARAKI et al.
Filed : January 3, 2001
Title : WORK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD, DISTRIBUTED
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MEDIUM

Art Unit : 3623
Examiner : S.M. MEINECKE DIAZ

Docket No. : 1232-4672
Customer No. : 27123

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Office Action dated December 3, 2004 constituted a requirement for
restriction, which divided this application into the following 2 groups:

Claims	Species
1-4, 6-18, 20-26, 28-40, 42-48 and 88-89	Species I, which is directed toward the first embodiment
1-3, 5-14, 18-19, 21-25, 27-36, 40-41, 43-44 and 49-89	Species II, which is directed toward the second embodiment

As between these groups, Applicant provisionally elects Species I. At least, claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-26, 28-40, 42-48 and 88-89 are readable on the elected group. Claims 1-3, 6-14, 18, 21-25, 28-36, 40, 43, 44, 88 and 89 were recognized by the Examiner as being generic.

Appl. No. 09/753,728

Paper dated December 21, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated December 3, 2004

This election is made with traverse, because it is respectfully asserted that there is no serious search burden if all the claims are examined. Should the Restriction be made final, Applicant expressly reserves the right to represent the non-elected groups (Claims 5, 19, 27, 41, and 49-87) in a divisional application, if necessary.

Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable examination on the merits.

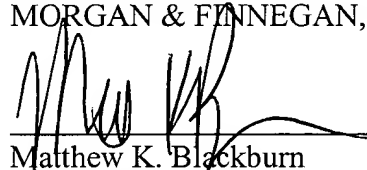
In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-4672.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: December 21, 2004

By:


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